

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-31 were rejected. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 20, 21, 24 and 26 have been amended.

The Examiner objected to the disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(d)(1) as failing to provide proper support for the terms “contextual describer” and “information layer.” The claims have been amended as described below and the objection is believed addressed thereby.

The Examiner objected to claim 24 because of a misspelling, and claim 21 because of failure to use a hyphen. The claims have been amended and the objections are believed addressed thereby.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 7 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. The claims have been amended and the rejection is believed overcome thereby. Specifically, claim 4 has been amended to replace the term to which the Examiner objected, i.e., “contextual describer,” with the term “context information record” which is described in the present specification, for example, at page 25, line 5. In addition, claim 20 has been amended to replace the term “information layer” with “interface layer” as described in the present specification at page 12, lines 21-23.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-17 and 19-30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by a combination of archived web materials from Homestead.com located at <http://web.archive.org/web/19990423022926/http://www.homestead.com/> (Homestead). The Examiner also rejected claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Homestead, and claim 18 as being unpatentable over Homestead in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,334,128 (Norcott). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Homestead describes a web site which enables users to build their own web sites without any programming (page 1). The Homestead site provides web page templates and “drag and

drop” elements with which users can construct their sites (page 8). Apart from the superficial similarity with the exemplary use of the present invention to build a web site, Homestead is largely irrelevant to the invention as claimed. Many of the recited limitations throughout the claims of the present application are neither described or even remotely suggested.

For example, claim 1 of the present application recites a software architecture having a “data schema” which has “an underlying, extensible data model.” An example of such an extensible data model is described in the present application with reference to Figs. 3 and 4 beginning at page 15, line 10. The Examiner referred to pages 49 and 50 of Homestead as corresponding to this portion of the claim. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Page 49 of Homestead includes the following text:

How much disk space will I get for my Homestead?

Each Homestead is allowed 12 MB of disk space. If your site requires more than 12 MB, feel free to create another Homestead and link the two together.

Page 50 of Homestead includes the following text:

Where will my web page be stored?

Everything related to your Homestead is stored on our server, not on your local computer or at your Internet Service Provider (ISP). This allows you to have access to your Homestead from practically any networked computer!

It is clear that neither of these pages includes any information whatsoever about the data model underlying the Homestead site. Rather, they simply answer so-called “frequently asked questions” (FAQs) regarding where a user’s web site will be stored and how much memory space is allotted for such storage.

The simple fact of the matter is that there are no references to an underlying data model anywhere in the Homestead materials. This is not surprising given that the materials are promotional in nature and are not targeted to an audience which would have any appreciation of or interest in such information.

Similarly, claim 13 recites “a data model for arranging and configuring application data, wherein the application data are one of a fixed attribute and an extended attribute.” The Examiner referred to pages 2-3, 7-8 and 40 as including information corresponding to these claim features. As discussed above, none of these pages includes any information regarding the data model underlying the Homestead site.

Presumably, the Examiner is proposing that the functionality described on these pages somehow necessarily implies an underlying data model as described. No such inference is warranted. That is, any of a variety of conventional software architectures could be employed to construct the Homestead site and to provide the functionality described. And because no details are provided regarding the nature of the software architecture or the associated data model employed, a conventional architecture and data model should be assumed. The Examiner is not entitled to use hindsight to propose that the novel and nonobvious software architecture described and claimed in the present application underlies the Homestead site.

Claim 21 recites “an extensible data model for storing and sharing the data as the plurality of tasks is completed.” The Examiner again referred to pages 49 and 50 of Homestead as anticipating this aspect of the invention. For the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, the Examiner’s assertion cannot stand.

Claim 24 recites “one or more panel objects within a sequence through which data related to the multi-application program is entered and manipulated, wherein a panel object is aware of which data object from the plurality of data objects to access to retrieve existing data related to the multi-application program.” An exemplary description of such panel objects is provided

beginning at page 21, line 5, of the present application with reference to Fig. 5. The Examiner referred to pages 7-9 and 18 as describing this aspect of the invention. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Once again, the descriptions of the high-level functionalities on these pages do not provide any details or even suggestions as to the nature of the various software objects which may be employed to implement the functionalities described. There is certainly no mention of something akin to the claimed panel objects having the claimed functionality. The existence of a "Site Manager" functionality which allows the creation, editing, viewing, and deletion of web pages, without further evidence regarding the nature of the objects underlying this functionality is simply not sufficient for anticipating the claimed invention.

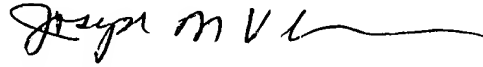
Claim 26 has been amended to recite that "the method of building the customized Web site includes a task-based approach to completing an activity, *employs an underlying, extensible data model*, and has a uniform user experience." As described above, the Homestead reference provides no information regarding such a feature.

In view of the foregoing, the rejection of the independent claims of the present application using the Homestead reference cannot stand for at least the reasons discussed. In addition, all of the claims dependent on those claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed. The Applicants invite the Examiner to more particularly describe the basis for his rejections, to provide more relevant references, or to withdraw the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is

respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (510) 843-6200.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph M. Villeneuve", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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